

M E D I A R E L E A S E



Manoeuvres 2004, (installation view)

Laura Calvi: Manoeuvres

21 October – 26 November 2006

Opening reception: Friday, 20 October, 8:00 pm

Featuring **Voices on a Hot Tin Roof**

a performance with Guang Zhu

The Side Gallery of Saint Mary's University Art Gallery will resemble a used-car lot this fall, transformed into an oddly festive, hybrid space through an installation and performance by Halifax artist Laura Calvi.

Calvi's minimal installation *Manoeuvres* consists of three interrelated components: a wall text, a blue neon circle and an overhead array of metallic Mylar streamers of the sort found in automobile show lots. Alluding to forms and signs culled from the street and other public spaces, Calvi locates them within the enclosed space of the gallery, posing the question: What is all the fanfare about?

A catalogue brochure will accompany the exhibition, with a text by Toronto artist and writer Craig Rodmore. "In *Manoeuvres*," he writes, "we find pieces of the everyday distilled and transported, carried away. Neon light, silver streamers, vinyl lettering, all images extracted from the vernacular of commercial enterprise, here take on other meanings: alternately (or simultaneously) strange and familiar, stripped and enhanced, signs become indeterminate, foreign. Though the work is so much about location, it becomes difficult to say where exactly the work resides; though so much about language, it slips away from words."

Born in Rome in 1964 and educated in Canada, England and France, Calvi received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (now NSCAD University) in 1995 and a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts from Toronto's York University in 2004. Her multi-media works have included installation, sculpture, photography, performance, sound and writing and have appeared in group and solo exhibitions in Halifax, Istanbul, Barcelona, Toronto and the US. She has also participated in residencies in Istanbul and at Alberta's Banff Centre for the Arts.

Manoeuvres is on exhibit from 21 October through 26 November 2006 in the Side Gallery of Saint Mary's University Art Gallery. On display in the Main Gallery during the same period will be an exhibition of digitally manipulated landscape photography. *Inhabiting: The Works of Isabelle Hayeur (Habiter : les oeuvres d'Isabelle Hayeur)*, organised and circulated by Oakville Galleries and the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, complements Calvi's work through its consideration of the disturbed and unresolved terrains of suburban construction sites.

Both exhibitions open with a public reception on Friday evening, 20 October at 8:00 pm. During the reception, visitors are invited to drop in on an ongoing performance by Laura Calvi with Guang Zhu, *Voices on a Hot Tin Roof*. Refreshments will be served.

All events are free of charge and open to the public. Saint Mary's University Art Gallery is in the Loyola Building, 5865 Gorsebrook Avenue. This exhibition and associated activities are generously supported by programme funding from The Canada Council for the Arts.

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